

# reedom High School Vocal Music Parents' Organization

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

**September 13, 2016**

The meeting for the choir students and parents was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the auditorium of Freedom High School. Attendees included Director Mrs. Volpato, FHSVMPPO President Mrs. Lindsay Kessler, Vice President Mrs. Carol Grace Hicks, Treasurer Mrs. Anne Draper, Hospitality Chair Mrs. Kathie Davis, Uniform Chair Mrs. Lori Rusack, Disney Trip Co-Chair Mrs. Mary Beth Duchesneau, Gift Card Chair Ms. Mary Ann Kostura and a number of parents and students. Attendees were given a copy of an agenda which included the Treasurer's Report.

Mrs. Volpato welcomed those in attendance and reminded everyone of her expectations for the mandatory graded performances for students. She notified everyone that the first of these was at the Freedom High School Open House on 09/15/2016 and all students should attend. Mrs. Volpato went on to explain that today's meeting would have a different format with tables at the front for each of the officers and some fundraisers so parents and students could ask questions and obtain additional information.

Mrs. Volpato introduced Mrs. Deanna Webb who is a 31 Consultant. Mrs. Webb is going to hold a 10 day fundraising Thirty-One sale for FHSVMPPO. She presented several Thirty-One products that will be available to purchase during the 10 day sale period ending 09/23/2016. There will be a discount offered on some products and a portion of her commission from the total sales will be donated to FHSVMPPO. Handouts were available along with her contact information. This will raise funds for the Choir General Fund.

FHSVMPPO President Mrs. Kessler introduced both the executive committee and the other board members. She explained that the function of the FHSVMPPO is to work with the Choir Director to provide the following:

- Fundraising for student accounts and FHSVMPPO
- Support for the Choir Retreats
- Assistance with the 2 main concerts in Dec and May
- Help with uniforms, ticket sales, programs etc.
- Support for the Coffee House performance put on by the students
- Arrangements for the Barnes and Nobles fundraising night
- Assistance with the Iron Pigs performance / game attendance
- Help in working on the 50<sup>th</sup> FHS anniversary celebration in 2017

Mrs. Kessler explained that the organization is in need of volunteers of all kinds, whether in the form of time or donations – it is all appreciated and welcomed.

Mrs. Kessler requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last FHSVMPO meeting. The minutes were approved by Mrs. Mary Beth Duchesneau and seconded by Mrs. Kathie Davis.

Mrs. Draper, the Treasurer, went over the various account balances as shown on the handout and requested a motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made for approval by Mrs. Kathie Davis and seconded by Mrs. Lindsay Kessler

Mrs. Kessler reviewed the registration paperwork and parent information that should be completed for each student. She said that students are encouraged to attend meetings so they can learn how a meeting is conducted.

Summer Camp: Mrs. Volpato felt that a great deal was accomplished at Summer Camp and she was pleased to report that good leadership and enthusiasm was shown by many of the students. There was a good level of attendance at Summer Camp. In addition, there were more students at the performance on the first day of school than ever before and they did an excellent job singing the FHS Alma Mater. Mrs. Volpato stressed the importance of registering with the "REMIND" texting system for both parents and students to receive news and reminders on an on-going basis. There will be no individual emails sent – it will be text messages only. If there is any parent who cannot receive texts, they should contact Mrs. Volpato to arrange an alternative means of communication. Parents should also link to the Google Calendar for Choir – link is on the Choir web page – the calendar is updated on an on-going basis.

The first individual performance assessments of the year will begin on 09/14/16. Since Choir is a graded class, Mrs. Volpato will be looking for skill development and vocal improvement in the students throughout the year. The yellow calendar that was previously handed out (and is posted in several locations) should be used as a reference for all student performances – especially those that are mandatory. If a student has a conflict due to a sports event, he or she should see Mrs. Volpato as soon as they are aware of the situation. Opening Day was not considered one of the mandated performances, but students who attended will receive additional points. At this point in time, all students should have submitted the following 4 forms to Mrs. Volpato:

- Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Grading Policy Acknowledgement Form
- Parent / Student contact information sheet
- Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Uniform payments will be due at the November meeting in the amount of \$70 per student. Payments may also be made at the end of today's meeting. There may be a chance to trade in clothing that no longer fits, but there is a very limited supply. Mrs. Volpato verified that all female students who are also in FHS Band may use the same dress for Choir. Robes are to be sized for students very soon – these are provided – there is no additional fee, although money from some of the general fundraisers is put towards the cleaning fee for the robes. In the event that anyone needs alterations made to their uniform, Mrs. Kostura stated that she can provide contact information for a seamstress who completes alterations in a timely manner for a very reasonable price. This information will be sent out through REMIND at a later date.

This year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Freedom High School and so each concert will involve/honor the alumni in some way. There will be a special web-page set up. On 04/17/17 there will be a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert with both the band and choir participating. Many photos of past alumni will be display in the Hall of Fame Room. It is hoped that many former students will also perform and most of the past directors will be back to attend or participate in some way. There will be a fee of \$10 for alumni to register for the event.

Once again, Mrs. Volpato stressed the importance of all parents becoming involved in some way, whether they donate time, baked goods/treats, water/assist with ticket sales/uniform organization/fundraisers – PLEASE sign up!! A volunteer sign-up sheet will be on table at the front following the meeting. Anyone working in a situation which involves contact with the students will be required to submit the appropriate volunteer clearances. Mrs. Duchesneau can assist anyone who has questions regarding the necessity of clearances.

Mrs. Davis gave an update on hospitality:

- Sign-up Genius will be used to all events to sign up for donations
- Remember it is all the students – at choir retreats they need to eat – they work hard
- At Bake Sales – anything is appreciated!!
- Cases of water are important – please buy anytime it is on sale and bring to meetings or send in with students
- Will typically send out sign-up about 2 weeks prior to any event and then a reminder 2 days prior

Mrs. Volpato provided a Disney update – 84 days until they leave. There will be upcoming rehearsals after school. She must be notified of any conflicts so she can work with individual students if necessary.

FHSVMPO Vice President Mrs. Hicks went over the types of fundraisers held:

- Student account fundraisers – proceeds go to individual student accounts – example: Giant Cards/ShopRite Cards
- Whole choir fundraisers – proceeds to the Choir General Account – example: Dine to Donate events

Various Fundraisers will be offered:

- Coupon Book (a show of hands by those in attendance indicated sufficient interest to move forward with this fundraiser) last year the books cost \$25 with \$8 per book sold going to individual student account. Purchaser will be able to use the code in the book to download the app and then use in other regions. Those interested will be given a packet with a sample book and order form – all books must be paid for when ordered – if no order, must return book. Last year, there was a free book for every 5 ordered – this may not be passed on to the student this year (FHSVMPO may use the free books for prizes/fundraisers -- further details to follow
- Avon – Independent Sales Rep., Mrs. Lisa Eckler and her District Rep., presented items available for Avon campaigns – the more sales made, the higher our return. Diana Doctoroff will provide additional details – there will be 2 campaigns running for 2 months each. The orders for the first campaign will be due 10/21/16. There is no due date for the second one yet (will be in time for the Winter break).

- Wawa coupons – these have been ordered and will soon be available for sale – will get a voucher for a “Shorty Hoagie”. We pay \$3 per coupon and will sell for \$4. They never expire, can be used at any Wawa in the US and there are many choices. Looking for a volunteer to coordinate this fundraiser.
- Yankee Candle – brochure to follow but can also order online or using an APP. You can set up an account and email the link to relatives or friends to place orders – they just need to use the reference#. Payment must be collected up front for these purchases. Shipping is charged – will depend on volume of orders. Mrs. Davison is coordinating this and it will run in September and October.
- Gertrude Hawk Chocolate – 1.75oz bars – cost of \$1 each – with student receiving \$0.40 per bar purchased back to their account. A full box costs \$48 or you can order 10 bars at a time. If you order during the next 2 weeks, you can request a specific flavor. After that time, you may be limited to the flavors on hand. Variety pack is also available – call Mrs. Hicks (202)415-8068 for information. Note: the bars can be sold at school but not during class and not in the lunchroom. Forms are on the piano in the choir room.
- Mrs. Davison provided information regarding the Barnes and Noble night on 12/15/16. Students should be there by 5.45pm. Funds raised will go to the Choir General Fund – a percentage of all sales on books and items bought at the coffee bar too. Forms to pre-order pizzas at the store will be available at a later date. Purchases can also be made on-line using a code – information to follow.
- Wreath and poinsettia sale update was provided. Forms will be forthcoming. This is completed in conjunction with the Band order.
- Ms. Kostura can take orders for both Giant and ShopRite gift cards – 5% goes back to the individual student’s account.

REMIND messages will be send with updates and reminders regarding the various fundraisers. Students should put fundraiser forms in the Fundraiser Box in the Choir Room. The In-Box is for all other forms.

Mrs. Volpato reminded everyone that she should be contacted if any student has any financial difficulty with payment for anything related to Choir. There are funds available to assist students with financial hardship.

The next General Membership meeting will be held on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Draper, Treasurer (on behalf of Brenda Cahill, Secretary)